

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00568 190149Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07  
CEA-01 /091 W  
-----025085 191341Z /47

R 180931Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9278  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0568

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECON LA TH EFIN  
SUBJECT: LPDR TAKES OVER "555" COMPANY

1. THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN OVER THE "555" COMPANY WHICH INCLUDES AS ASSETS THE "555" CIGARETTE COMPANY, A ONE THIRD COMPLETED CEMENT FACTORY, AND A MACHINE FACTORY, ALL IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE.

2. THE MANAGER, WHOSE HOUSE IN VIENTIANE HAS ALSO BEEN OCCUPIED, APPARENTLY HAS GONE TO THAILAND. HE REPORTEDLY DID NOT RECEIVE ANY COMPENSATION OR EVEN DOCUMENTATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT FORMALIZING THE CONFISCATION.

3. AT THIS POINT THE STATUS OF AN OUTSTANDING LOAN OF 8 MILLION DOLLARS, REPORTEDLY OWED TO A CONSORTIUM OF THAI BANKS, IS UNCLEAR.

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4. THE COMPANY'S KIP ACCOUNT IN THE NATIONAL BANK HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR A LONG TIME, WITH THE GOVERNMENT PERMITTING WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS ONLY FOR PAYMENT OF EXPENSES. STOCKS AT THE CIGARETTE COMPANY HAD VIRTUALLY BEEN EXHAUSTED, THOUGH THE "555" MANAGER MAINTAINED A LARGE CREW OF LAO WORKERS WHO RECEIVED FULL SALARIES DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE FACTORY WAS OPERATING

AT 10 PERCENT CAPACITY.

ROBERTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALIZATION, BUSINESS FIRMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI00568  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780211-0445  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780542/aaaabjrd.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ef578c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2644718  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LPDR TAKES OVER "555" COMPANY  
**TAGS:** ECON, EFIN, LA, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014